

June 6, 2023

DOH-Bay Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program Results
No advisories are in effect for any Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling locations.



Contact:

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Bay County, Fla. – The advisory for the Panama City Beach Access #41 (SP 5) sampling location at 11211 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, has been rescinded.

No advisories are in effect for any Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling locations.

The Bay County Health Department (DOH-Bay) monitors saltwater beach water quality following the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. DOH-Bay collects water samples **twice a month between March and October** and checks for **enteric bacteria** that usually inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of enteric bacteria **can indicate fecal pollution**, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage.

Poor results are posted as an “Advisory” at the affected beaches.

Healthy Beaches **advisories protect swimmers from increased risk of gastrointestinal illnesses**. At a lower occurring level, there may also be **increased risks of upper respiratory infections, skin rashes, and ear infections**. Healthy Beach advisories are not related to Necrotizing fasciitis, a rare complication.



Sampling is usually done on Mondays, with results on Tuesdays, except for holidays. Results are shared at Bay.FloridaHealth.gov, through media releases, and real-time on the **Florida Healthy Beaches** page at FloridaHealth.gov and search for “Healthy Beaches.”

Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories are; Good = 0-35 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, Moderate = 36-70 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, and **Poor = 71 or greater Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water. If levels are above 70, Bay CHD**

notifies the local Florida Department of Environmental Protection for further investigation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Bay County Health Department at 850-481-4806 or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-environments/beach-water-quality/index.html>.



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